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Industries of Claremont - 1870

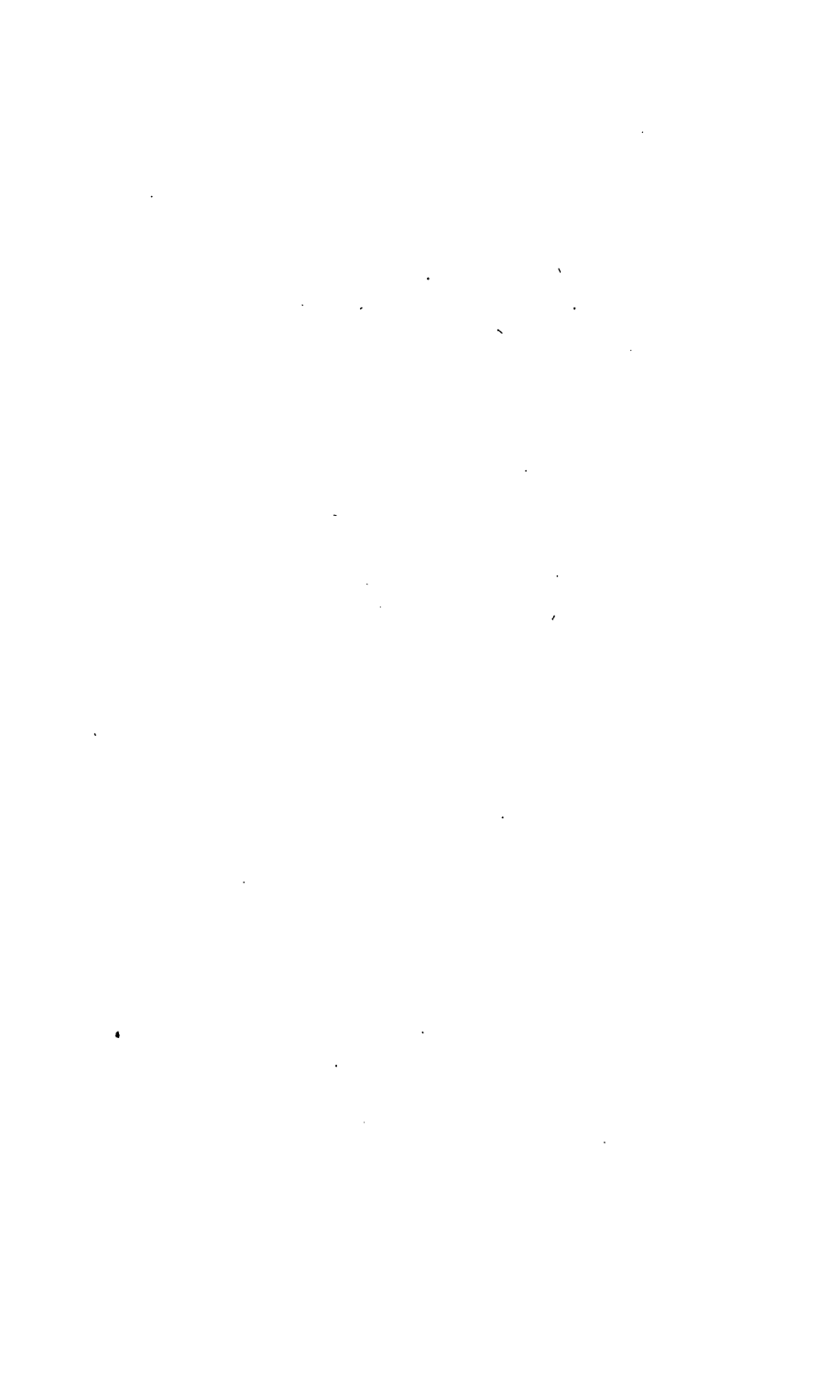
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THE INDUSTRIES  
OF  
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
PAST AND PRESENT.

BY  
SIMEON IDE.



CLAREMONT.  
THE CLAREMONT MANUFACTURING COMPANY.  
1879.



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## PREFATORY REMARKS.

The following brief account of the rise and progress of the manufacturing industries of CLAREMONT, and of its other interests intimately related thereto, has been compiled in compliance with the request of several of our citizens who take an active interest in whatever is calculated to promote its prosperity. The writer has gathered from the most reliable sources of this kind of information at hand, and embodied in these few pages, such historical facts and incidents regarding the operations of individuals and of incorporated companies engaged in manufacturing enterprises here, from its first settlement to the present day, as he deemed most interesting and worthy of note, and as will be of some value to those of his readers who may preserve the pamphlet for future reference. And it is thought it may be of especial service to the friends and correspondents of our business men and others who may make use of it as a medium for enlightening those of them residing at a greater or less distance abroad, as to what has been done, and is now being done, in our business circles. And more especially will it be gratifying to the former residents of "Old Claremont," of whom there are not a few scattered up and down in this broad land, to learn from its pages, that *she*, (their dear old home) in spite of the past six years of "hard times", is still progressing, moderately though surely, in local and beneficial improvements. And we beg leave to add, that although it is not so thorough and extended a review of its progress or present status as may be desired, yet it is one we have taken much pains to make correct, as far as it does go.

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[Nearly all of the present edition of this pamphlet was engaged, before it went to press. If another is wanted, subscriptions towards its cost should be made to the Author at once]

## CLAREMONT, N. H.

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WHEN I first became a resident of Claremont, in 1834, this village was a little hamlet of some 300 or 400 inhabitants—pleasantly cooped up by mountains and hills, at a respectful distance on either side;—and it was within about three miles of “the dark rolling”——Connecticut, the same as at the present day. Its natural attractions, as a place of residence, were inviting—but more especially *its business* attractions; for there was the same “*Sugar River*,” with its 130-ft. fall of water, running through it, that runs through it now: and old “*Sunapee Lake*,”\* 10 miles long, by an average width of about 1 mile, held in reserve its vast store of liquid *sweetening*, to replenish said river in “a dry time,” that it does now: and I have undertaken to show, as briefly as may be, and from the most reliable sources of information on that point readily at hand, WHAT USE was made here of this large water-power, *all the way down from the first settlement of the town, in 1765, to the present day.*

From the statistics I have at hand, it would seem there was comparatively but very little use made of it previous to the year 1833–4. There was then at the upper fall (No. 1.), a gristmill on the south side, and a sawmill and gristmill on the north side of the river. On the second fall (No. 2), not anything: On the third fall (No. 3), south side, a wool-carding and fulling mill, carried on by Woodman & Elmer, and a furnace, by Roswell Elmer;

\*Its waters are held in reserve by a dam at the outlet, for use in “low water,” as ordered by the Directors of the Sunapee Dam Corporation.

and on the north side a small hand-making papermill, having two 120-lb. pulp engines, and other necessary appliances of that day, in proportion, for making paper—owned and operated by Fiske & Blake, successors of the first papermaker in Cheshire county, Col. JOSIAH STEVENS. On fall No. 4 was a 7-ft. dam, and, till the 1st of Jan. '38, only water enough was drawn from it to move Timothy Eastman's bark-grinding machine. The Claremont Manufacturing Company's Stone Factory, on the south side, had recently been put in order to receive its machinery. On the 5th fall, east side of the river, was the Tyler saw and gristmill: on the west side, a wool-carding, spinning, weaving and cloth-dressing factory. On the 6th fall, west side, Farwell's cotton factory with Billings' machine shop in the basement or L—first put in operation in 1831; and on the west side, in "the gully", a small slate-sawing and planing mill, operated by Curtis Stoddard. On falls Nos. 7, 8 and 9, in 1832, not even a dam had been built, so far as I can learn.

As may well be supposed, in this incipient stage of manufacturing enterprise in Claremont, little, if anything was made here for markets outside of the neighboring towns on both sides of the Connecticut. These "establishments" were for custom-work, mainly.

About the year 1832 a few go-ahead citizens of Claremont thought it was time to wake up, and see if something could not be done in the way of improving their abundant water-power. Instead of first calling on the old god Hercules for help, they put their own shoulders to the wheel to give business *a start*; and, after having pretty much exhausted *their own strength*, they took judicious measures to invite capital and enterprise from abroad. I think it could be shown by a correct statement of facts, that not less than One Hundred and Fifty Thous-

and Dollars invested in manufacturing concerns, by those "go-ahead citizens," and those from other towns, whom they enlisted in the same enterprises to give business a start here, during the years 1834 to '38—that this sum, at least, was lost by them in starting it.

And, with the kind reader's leave, I will go on and contrast these small beginnings with what is now being done with this 130 feet of water-fall through this "*little hamlet*" of '32,—now, by the use of its water-power, sustaining a population, probably, *ten-fold* the number it did in 1832, or could *now* sustain, but for the use of its "Sugar River" element.

Following the above order, in a more minute historical, descriptive view of the several present and former mill-sites in the village proper of Claremont—the earliest date at which I find there had been any use made of that at fall No. 1, north side of the river, was about the year 1800, when Stephen Dexter erected a small building there, and he and his brother, Col. David Dexter, carried on in it a Scythe-making concern, till about 1824. They also owned grist, saw and oil mills, located on and near where the Monadnock Mills Co.'s sawmill now stands, which were run by water drawn from a low dam then standing about midway between dams Nos. 1 and 2. On the decease of Col. Dexter, in 1830, his son-in-law, Moses Wheeler, (in '31), succeeded the Messrs. Dexter in the several branches of business above stated, (except the scythe factory) as sole proprietor, and carried them on till his decease in 1858.

In 1837, ~~the~~ two-story brick building took the site of the old Dexter scythe shop, and was owned and occupied by the "Claremont Carriage Co.", two or three years. "Hard Times" finally put a stop to this company's operations, and soon afterwards their buildings were destroyed

by fire. Paran Stevens, Timo. Eastman, Moses Wheeler, A. J. Tenny (T. J. Harris, as Agent), were of this company. In 1843-4 the present 8-story brick building was erected. It stood empty a few years; when John Fiske put into it cotton machinery, and run it 2 or 3 years; then a Mr. Cozens bought the property—continued business but a short time; when the Monadnock Mills Co. bought and continued its use as a cotton-mill till '63, and then substituted the woolen for the old cotton machinery. This is the only factory, on the north side of the river, operated by power from fall No. 1.

On the south side, in olden time, Col. Josiah Stevens, (it is said), built a one-story wooden building at the south end of the "Upper Bridge", and put into it machinery for making paper—where I recollect calling on him, in 1810, for a few reams to supply an immediate want in the office of the *Vermont Republican*; (where I was then a *typesetter*, as I am here, now)—but when he began, or left off, making paper there, I am unable to say; but am told that not long after that date, (in '12), his mill was burnt down, and the present 2-story building erected there; which, in '81, was owned and occupied by David W. Dexter as a gristmill. It has since been tenanted for various purposes, and is now the repair-shop of the Monadnock Mills Company.

### **The Monadnock Mills Company,**

DANIEL W. JOHNSON, AGENT,

Commenced business in '44, (under a charter Doct. L. Jarvis had procured in '31). Their main factory buildings are located at fall No. 2.—About the year '36 the citizens of the "Upper Village", or on "the Plain", perceiving how fast "factory buildings" were accumulating at the "Low-

er Village", began to realize the necessity of bestirring themselves, lest "the centre of gravity" should finally culminate "down there"! This rivalry between the two sections of the village proper was not without its beneficial effect on its growth: although the mutual jealousies their strifes engendered was, now and then, a drawback.

At this time a few of the wealthy citizens *on the Plain* associated themselves in a corporation styled "The Upper Falls Company"—went to work and expended some \$25,000 in the purchase of land, water-power, etc., and the erection of their large 4-story factory building and tenement houses. They had merely put up their factory's walls, the roof on, and windows and doors in, when their capital was used up; and, through the Jackson-Van Buren *tariff* and *currency* tinkering, "Hard Times" came on, and they suspended further operations. In this condition their building stood for a long time, till currently known among us as the "Old Upper Falls Factory"—exposed to the unruly winds, and the far more destructive stones of unruly boys, till it was a matter of doubt in the minds of passers-by, whether the *whole* outnumbered the *broken* panes of glass in it. At length one of those "bloated bondholders" (about whom B. F. Butler has said so much), came up here from "the Hub" in the nighttime, took a view of the premises, and, — went back again; and a few days after it was reported "on change"—and at length it was found to be a fact—that said Upper Falls Company had sold its entire property for \$3,000!—less than an eighth of its original cost. And, as the world-renowned financier, PARAN STEVENS, a large stockholder, engineered the transaction, we may be sure it was a judicious one. PARKER, WILDER & Co. of Boston, and their associates, bought the "Upper Falls" property in 1843,—organized the Monadnock Mills Company, and

commenced business in this Upper Falls factory in '44—Henry Russell acting as their agent about two years.

We have not data from which to trace the history of this company's proceedings during the past 35 years; but think we may add, without fear of contradiction, that it has been a blessing to this town, as well as to its operatives; for it has gone steadily on—17 years under the skilful management of the late JONAS LIVINGSTON, and 16 years under that of DANIEL W. JOHNSON, Esq., its present Agent,—appropriating a large portion of its earnings to new buildings, machinery and other means of increasing its business operations, from year to year, till it now gives employment to three hundred and thirty male and female laborers, and pays, without grudging, as it has done for many years past, about one-tenth of our town's taxes. "Corporations have no souls," says an old adage—which will not apply in this case.

In their woolen mill on fall No. 1, [before described], which its owners designate as No. 3, they now employ 36 hands, run 3 sets of cards, and produce 220,000 yards of mixed flannels per annum, valued at \$36,000.

On fall No. 2, [16 ft.], the Monadnock Mills Co.'s Nos. 1 and 2 factory buildings are located, on the south side of the river. Their bed-spread or L building, which was erected in '78, is run by power from fall No. 3, [13 ft.].—Their No. 2 factory was built in 1853. In these two mills and the L are now run 16,000 spindles, with looms equal to 500 one-yard looms—making table cloths, napkins, bed-spreads and plain cloth, from one to three yards wide, and consuming, for these several fabrics, about 800,000 pounds of cotton per annum. These two mills employ about 300 operatives, and manufacture goods valued at \$200,000 per annum. The capital of this company is \$200,000; its tenements and dwellings 27. Its factory

buildings form a connected row 575 feet in length, and its works of all kinds occupy an area of 8 or 9 acres.

### The Sullivan Machine Company,

J. P. UPHAM, PRES'T.,

C. B. RICE, TREAS.,

Now occupies a water-power from fall No. 3, [13 ft.] which was formerly owned by Roswell Elmer, who operated a small iron foundry for casting plows, stoves, pot-ash kettles, etc., etc.—afterwards by George W. Emerson, who carried on the same business for 7 or 8 years prior to 1850, when he built the original machine shop, now a part of one of the buildings occupied by the Sullivan Machine Company. D. A. Clay & Co. leased this shop, and, in '51, started the machine business. Afterwards J. P. Upham, of the firm of D. A. Clay & Co., purchased the property, and made extensive additions of buildings and machinery for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of water-wheels and machinery in general—in which he was large-ly engaged until '68, when the property was sold to the Sullivan Machine Company. Their buildings occupy an area of some three or four acres, and contain machinery for manufacturing a large variety of tools, machines and industrial implements, among which is the celebrated "Diamond Drill", now in extensive use—the patent for which they own. This drill is used for quarrying marble, slate and other valuable stone—notably in Vermont, where it has materially lessened the cost of quarrying the apparently inexhaustible mines of that useful commodity. Besides the sale of over \$100,000 worth of those drills, this company now own and run on contract, in the marble quarries of Vermont, over \$50,000 worth, on their



own account—having a branch shop at West Rutland to keep them in repair for this business; and, in running their machinery they employ about 25 men at Rutland and vicinity some eight months of the year; while their average working force at home is about 45 men.

The products of this company are many and various: consisting of water-wheels, marble drills, mill-irons, and machinery, generally—of which they turn out, annually, a large amount in first-class style of workmanship.

Their Superintendent, Mr. ALBERT BALL, has designed and perfected some of the most valuable manufacturing appliances now in use. Among them are the *Roving Can*, made mostly of paper, to take the place of tin cans formerly in use in cotton mills; and a *Cop Tube*, for the manufacture of which, in their new, large and thoroughly finished 2-story building, the company are making extensive preparations, by the construction and arrangement of the requisite machinery. Mr. Ball is spoken of as being an “eminently ingenious and distinguished mechanic”, and a valuable member of this company.

This is one of the oldest establishments among us for manufacturing purposes—having been under the management of its present efficient President about 29 years. As a proof of the estimation in which the senior owner is held by his employees, the company has several of them now in its service, who have held responsible positions in it a long time—of whom we are permitted to mention the names of—David Perkins, machinist, 27 years; Almon F. Wolcott, foreman machinist, 26 years; Chas. Tibbills 24 years; Geo. W. Holden, in the wood-work department, 24 years.

**The Claremont Manufacturing Company,**

GEORGE G. IDE, AGENT,

LEMUEL N. IDE, CLERK.

This company's factory buildings are located at fall No. 4, [12 ft.] south side. It was chartered in 1832, and was the first company for manufacturing purposes, organized by citizens of Claremont, that has been in continuous operation, under a charter by the Legislature of N. Hampshire, from that date to the present time. Its factory buildings and tenement houses were erected in '32-3, —the stone of which the former, and one of the latter were constructed, was quarried at, and within a few rods of, the site of their main building.

AUSTIN TYLER, DOCT. TIMOTHY GLEASON, WM. ROSSITER and TIMOTHY EASTMAN were the most active and influential individuals engaged in organizing this company.— Their *modus operandi* for this purpose may be considered as peculiar, by financiers of the present day. For instance, they hoped, by the sale of stock at \$ 200 per share, to secure a capital of \$ 100,000: but they commenced business before they had in hand a tenth part of that amount. Having obtained about money enough by the sale of shares to pay for 15 acres of land on the south side of the river, bounded, I was told, on the east by Roswell Elmer, on the south by Sullivan street, west by Harvey Tolles, and on the north by Sugar River and E. Tyler's dwelling-house lot and grist and sawmill-yard—contiguous to which land are four of the most valuable water-falls in the village—they came in possession of sufficient capital, as they supposed, to warrant their hiring of Hon. Geo. B. Upham \$ 10,000 —“every dollar of which and no more,” (as Austin Tyler

once told me) "was expended in building their Stone Factory and two dwelling-houses."

The business originally contemplated by this company was the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods and of printing and writing papers: and, by about the 1st of January, 1833, they were prepared with the requisite machinery, &c., to commence making satinets and printing and writing papers. They had not made much progress, however, in that direction, except to get fairly under way, with a few operatives, and a foreman in each department, when in the fall of '34, Simeon Ide, then engaged in publishing a weekly newspaper, bookselling and manufacturing books, job-printing, etc., went down to Claremont from his old home in Windsor, to see about buying some paper of this new company.

While looking over their works with the papermill foreman, Christopher Ervin, he made the casual remark to him: "I guess you might spare enough room here for my power printing press"—not thinking anything of the kind might ever happen. In the course of several weeks after, Mr. Ide was waited on at his office by two directors of the Claremont Manufacturing Company, (Messrs. Tyler and Gleason), and the result of the negotiation that ensued between those parties was, that the said Ide's entire printing, book-binding and bookstore establishment soon became a part of said company's property:—in exchange for which he received what he then considered a fair equivalent, viz: 100 slips of paper called "C. M. Co's. certificates of shares," then valued at \$200 each; but 4 or 5 years afterwards, in consequence of liberal "watering," and the depreciation in the 'estimated' value of its real estate, etc., said stock was not worth, "in the market," a tenth of \$200—when its Real Estate fell from \$60,000, down to \$20,000—a shrinkage of \$40,000 in one year!

To make room for their printing presses, type and book-binding apparatus, the satinet machinery was sold to the "Sullivan Manufacturing Co.," an outgrowth of this company, then just started at the lower falls [No. 8,] on its 15-acre purchase above referred to; and in December, 1834, their book-making machinery was moved from Windsor and put in motion in said company's Stone Mill.

At the first meeting of this company's stock-holders, under the new arrangement for its business, SIMEON IDE was elected its Agent, to which office he was annually re-appointed till 1858, when he declined a re-election, and his brother-in-law, EDWARD L. GODDARD, succeeded him. At their annual meeting in June, '67, GEORGE G. IDE, its present Agent, was elected—his brother, LEMUEL N. IDE, superintending the paper-making department, and SAMUEL L. FARMAN the book-making.

Thus it will be seen, that this company has, under the superintendence of three different Agents or managers, been in operation about forty-five years, and has been diligently at work—manufacturing paper for the newspaper and periodical press—school-books, miscellaneous and Church publications for the city booksellers—printing pamphlets, blanks, cards, posters and all kinds of letter-press job-work for their old customers in the country round about, "far off and near." It runs 3 Adams and 2 job presses. In the papermill department it has 4 engines of 200 to 400 lbs. capacity—a 72-inch Fourdrinier machine, with 2 stacks of calender rolls attached—can work up 600 tons of rags annually; and the aggregate amount of their annual products, in all departments, varies from \$40,000 to \$50,000. In "good times" it has employed nearly 100—and even now employs some 50 or 60 operatives.

This Company also stereotypes for its customers, and has in its brick safe the plates of over 200 different school-

books, church instruction, theological and other works manufactured for them—a large number of which have been stored for safe keeping, and editions from them printed as ordered from time to time, for 20 or 25 years past.

Among the agents, overseers and operatives employed by this company the past 45 years, we add the names and terms of service of the following:—*As Agents*, Simeon Ide, 24 years; Edward L. Goddard, (who had been their chief clerk about 20 years), 9 years; and George G. Ide, (who has been in the company's continuous employment 26 years), 12 years.—*As Superintendent of Papermill Department*, Lemuel N. Ide, 23 years.—*Foremen of Printing Dep't*, Nichols W. Goddard, 36 years; Henry C. Fay, the present efficient foreman, 9 years.—*Foremen of the Bookbindery*, John Terry, 5 years; Benjamin D. Howe, 11; S. H. Bateman, 6; Daniel M. Ide, 18; Alfred Tracy, 5 years as foreman—previously, as apprentice and journeyman, about 30 years—(their present foreman, and a “first-class” workman).—*In the Papermill Department*, Christopher Ervin, Samuel and William Wales, John Blake and Solomon Stimpson, in succession, till 1846, when June Pierce commenced as the foreman of their wrapping-paper, and afterwards of their printing-paper mill—27 years; and his son, June Alonzo, has been in the company's service as apprentice and journeyman, and as foreman the past 12 years—in all some 22 years—(a faithful, trusty hand.) Several female employes deserve honorable mention for long service; especially two of them whose term of employment is about 24 years each: but we mus'nt put their names in here, as they prefer not to “appear in print.”

### The Home Mill.

The 3-story brick building at fall No. 4, north side, was erected by the Claremont Manufacturing Co. in 1836; the design being to occupy it for making *fine writing papers* only. Having gone no farther with the undertaking than to protect the walls with roof and windows, it "weathered the storms" (and stones), minus any inside finish, a long time—the "hard times" consequent upon the money-market troubles of 1837-8 and after, putting a damper upon their "fine papermill" project—the said shell of a building remained the C. M. Co.'s property till about the year '49, when a few of its stock-holders bought it and one-half of said company's water-power, paying for it less than half the original cost of the building only. The new proprietors finished and furnished it with cotton machinery, and sold it at a sacrifice of several thousand dollars, to Geo. D. Dutton of Boston: and, in 1852, it became the property of Arnold Briggs & Co. of Woonsocket, R. I. This company kept it in successful operation, under Mr. Briggs' management, until about the year 1875; when its mill gates were shut down, and were kept shut, by another series of "commercial depression" years, till two years after the decease, in '76, of this highly respected and estimable citizen, who had run it. The Home Mill is now owned and operated by Pierce, Hardy & Co. of Boston,—running 3,000 spindles and 54 looms—consuming about 200,000 lbs. of cotton, and making about 600,000 yards of sheeting annually, and employing not far from 40 operatives.

### The Eastman Tannery

Is the oldest and only establishment of the kind in town. Its main building, located at fall No. 4, north side, was built by Timothy Eastman in 1811, who was, for nearly half a century, a prominent, enterprising, public spirited citizen of Claremont, up to the time of his decease in 1859. In '57 his son, Charles H., succeeded him in the business of tanning, and has been a successful manager—has added materially to the productive capacity of the old establishment, by the erection of additional buildings and labor-saving machinery. On the site of the small building destroyed by fire in 1870, he erected the large 2-story one now covering a large number of vats at the south end of the original building. The annual consumption of bark is between 400 and 500 cords—number of hides tanned about 5000, and he employs 6 hands.

### The Sugar River Mills Company.

At fall No. 5, east side of the river, the grist and saw-mills of this company stand on the site of the old "*Tyler Mills*"—known by that name "so long, that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." I have ascertained that BENJAMIN TYLER, one of the first settlers of Claremont,—who owned all the water-power, from fall No. 1 to No. 9, both inclusive, on the south and east side of the river—erected the first grist and sawmills in town, at the West Part, in 1766, and the "Old Tyler Mills" here, in 1785; and gave the latter to his son Ephraim, on his coming of age, who continued their owner until 1836.

About this time, as many of our citizens may well remember, (some of them, perhaps, to their sorrow), speculation in real estate ran mountain high. In '1835 \$400 was paid Ephraim Tyler for the lot on which Patten's Block and the C. M. Co.'s old Bookstore stand. It was none of your bogus, irredeemable "Greenback" money, neither; such as, within the past fifteen years, previous to '78, was intrinsically worth only 50 to 75 cts. on the dollar—but such money as "Uncle Ephraim" could, if he desired, take up to old President Upham's bank, and get "dollar for dollar" for in *gold*. And, as a still more notable illustration of the speculating mania here:—in 1836 a company consisting of three citizens of Keene and three of this town, each of whom had accumulated "a handsome property" by legitimate methods, bought the Tyler mills and mill-yard of Ephraim Tyler. They purposed the displacement of those old dilapidated structures, and putting in their place suitable buildings for a first-class calico printing establishment. In the spring of '37 they commenced clearing the grounds preparatory to the erection of their buildings, when the sirocco tempests of financial troubles of that and many following years admonished them to "hold on a spell." They did so for a "long spell"—and, after holding and running the mills 4 or 5 years, (the *Cr.* side of their ledger overbalancing the *Dr.* side all the time), the entire property went back into the hands of its former life-long owner, at less than one-third the sum it originally cost them. Perhaps we wrong the memories of these six citizens, however, to cite this as a *speculative* operation. Who knows that, but for those "sirocco financial tempests", another "Monadnock Mills," manufacturing establishment (to speak metaphorically) might not have rained down upon us?

These mills were afterwards rented by Mr. Tyler and



his administrator to L. W. Randall and others, until 1854, when they were bought by E. W. Sanborn, Abner Stowell, A. Dutton and Brown & Hart, who built the present 3-story brick building in '55, and the sawmill adjoining in '56. Their gristmill has 8 run of stone, 4 flouring bolts, is motioned by 11 Tyler water-wheels, and its capacity is equal to the manufacture of 10,000 barrels of flour per annum.

These mills are now owned by the Sugar River Mill Company. The flouring department of this concern has been recently leased for a term of years, by Messrs. Mace & Tilden, lately of Lebanon, N. H. Mr. Geo. H. Stowell 2d has charge of the lumbering department.

### The Old Meacham Factory

Was situated on fall No. 5, opposite the Tyler Mills. It is supposed to have been the first mill erected in Sullivan county for the manufacture of woolen fabrics—was built in 1813, by ASA MEACHAM, (father of Asa Meacham now living in Springfield, Vt., in his 92d year.) It was a 2-story building; and was occupied by Asa Meacham, jr.,—by his brother Benjamin, Woodman & Rockwell, Wilson & Earl, and William Earl, manufacturers of woolen goods, until '54, when it was destroyed by fire. In '55 the privilege was bought by Simeon Ide—the dry-shop and store-house being all the buildings on it that escaped the fire. He fitted up the first named for a work shop, with water-power to run machinery; which he rented several years to different parties, for the making of Wolcott's scales, mowing machines, etc.—the other he converted into a dwelling-house. In 1859 he erected the "Round Building"—a 2-

story, fire-proof brick structure, and put into it apparatus for warming every part of it by steam. In '60 it was supplied with printing and book-binding apparatus and machinery; and he had got well under way in manufacturing books, under a \$10,000 contract with a Boston publisher, whose principal sales were by his agents in the Southern States, and the breaking out of the great Rebellion of '61 put a stop to his sales there, and caused a suspension of that business by his employer; the *failure* of his power-press and of the party who guaranteed its soundness and durability, added to the nonfulfilment of said contract, together with the general depression of the book-making enterprises of that era, prevented his farther occupancy of that building for that purpose.

#### **Freeman & O'Neil's Manufactory of Stair-Builder's Supplies.**

This is a recent and valuable accession to our manufacturing industries. It is located at fall No. 5, where Wm. Earl's dry-shop formerly stood. The site and water-power for these works was purchased of Ira Proctor, and the present 2-story building was erected by Freeman & O'Neil in 1874-5, and in May, '75 their work-shops were fitted up with the latest improved machinery for their branch of manufacture, which is operated by one of Tyler's improved water-wheels; the whole establishment costing about \$10,000. Black walnut is the kind of lumber principally used, which is brought directly from the Western forests—and of which they work up about 150,000 feet annually. They employ a number of skilful and experienced mechanics—their pay-roll amounting to about \$5,000, and their sales to about \$25,000 annually. Capital invested

1st Jan., '79, \$15,000. This bids fair to become one of our most enterprising and progressive business concerns—their goods being in demand from all parts of our own country; and, within the past year, they have shipped large quantities of them to Europe, where one of the firm has gone the present season, to give personal attention to the wants and tastes of the European markets.

Their annual catalogue, illustrating the designs of their manufacture, (which they originate), is sent free to house builders who may apply for it—it containing their price list, etc.

### **The Sugar River Paper Mill Company.**

JOHN TYLER, PRES'T,

J. L. FARWELL, TREAS'R,

JOHN T. EMERSON, AGENT.

We now come down to fall No. 6, on the east side of the river.—Soon after the war of the Rebellion broke out, such was the demand for newspapers, and so inflated became the currency of the country, that the price of paper, as well as that of many other products of our manufacturing establishments,—notably those of cotton and woollen goods and shoe-leather—rose to an unprecedented figure, and so continued for many years afterwards. Stimulated by this state of the market, a number of our wealthy citizens, led on by JOHN L. FARWELL, (who is prominent among our public spirited citizens), organized the above company, who appropriated their capital of \$100,000 for the purchase of water-power, the erection of their factory and other buildings and the necessary machinery for a first-class Papermill. It commenced business in 1868, and has since made additions to increase its capacity; and it now turns out about 5,000 lbs. of paper per diem. Its

president, John Tyler, 2d, was the sole engineer in constructing and filling with machinery the "Sugar River Mill" company's building, on the fall above, and performed the same office, also, for the proprietors of this Sugar River Papermill, of which he is a fifth part owner. He is the same indefatigable John Tyler who invented and patented the renowned "*Tyler Water-Wheel*," and made "a fortune out it"! And, it is doing him but justice to add, that nowhere hereabouts, if in the New England States, can be found a more competent or better qualified mill-wright for this class of engineering.

This company now run four 400 lbs. pulp engines, and two 600 lbs. do.; one 76 in. Fourdrinier machine, with 3 stacks of 27 hard chilled callender rolls attached. Its mill produces about 800 tons of paper, and works up nearly twice that quantity of rags per annum, and gives employment to 50 men and women.

The SUGAR RIVER PAPERMILL company also own another intrinsically valuable water-power, in the "gully", opposite their main dam, having about 20 ft. fall, We say *intrinsically* valuable, because it can *really* be of but little if any value, so long as the unobstructed right to the use of one half the river in that channel is in litigation: for, so long as that right is in question, it stands to reason, that no judicious person would select it as a site for manufacturing purposes. It is devoutly to be desired, for the interest of the owners of this privilege, as well as of the village and town at large, that this litigation may come speedily to an end, and the parties concerned in it may be relieved of the drudgery of following court after court, and feeing lawyers—"to the end of the chapter"—if, indeed, it has an end.

### The Lafayette Privilege,

On fall No. 7, west side of the river, (in the gully), was bought of Bill Barnes in 1828, by Arad Taylor; who, in company with several others, originated an embryo *paper* corporation of the above name for the manufacture of—something—it is not known what. In that era of corporation-making, about the year 1836, they put this property on the market in 32 shares, at \$100 each, which were soon taken up and held by individuals till '44; when Chester Dunckley bought a greater part of them, and built the 2-story building, with the L, as now seen. The lower story was occupied by L. Tinkham, list-maker, the upper story by J. G. Briggs for cabinet work, for many years, the while and after, Dunckley occupied the L for sawing and dressing slate-stone for walks, gravestones, etc.,—said machinery was all run by one water-wheel. Dunckley's slate-stone was drawn from a quarry in Cornish, about 8 miles distant, which is probably inexhaustible.—For these and other purposes this "Lafayette Privilege" was used, till '66, when R. Shepardson came in possession of it, and has added a 3-story building, which is used principally for sawing and working up hard wood lumber into fork and hoe handles. This (*litigation aside*), is one of the most valuable privileges of the series—having, as the owner claims, about 28 ft. fall—is not exposed to damage by freshets, and has land of sufficient length and breadth on which to erect a factory 300 or 400 feet long, on a *rock* foundation already at hand.

### **The Emerson-Heywood Privilege.**

On fall No. 7, south side, about the year 1842, George W. Emerson put up a 1-story brick building, in which he carried on the furnace business several years; and about the year '58 it came into the occupancy of Simeon Heywood, who also did something in the furnace department, but more at wood-work—manufacturing horse and hand-rakes and various other articles. This building was destroyed by fire in '66, and the dam connected with it, by flood, not long afterwards—and neither of them have been rebuilt: so, here is another water-fall, in a convenient locality for business, not now in use.

### **The Sullivan Manufacturing Company,**

Located at fall No. 8, south side, was chartered, I think, in 1833, for manufacturing woolen goods. Its main building was erected in '34, and was first put in operation for making satinets—the machinery for which was transferred from the Claremont Manufacturing Company's Stone mill, as before stated, to give place for their printing and book-binding tools and materials. This company did not make much headway in its business, however, till 1836, when its directors engaged the services of Ormond Dutton of Keene as its agent; under whose administration its two dwelling-houses and other out-buildings were put up; and, for its limited means, a large quantity of goods were produced during the two or three years of his agency. But, as was the fate of most enterprises of the kind, during the series of years of "hard times" we have so often referred to, a large stock of goods had accumulated

— which, to meet large and pressing liabilities, had to be sold for about the cost of the stock consumed in making them, and the company's operations were indefinitely suspended. Its capital of \$ 50,000 was used up, and very little else was afterwards done by it as a corporation, except to pay off as many of its debts as they could.

Soon after this company had discontinued business as a corporation, its assets were put into the hands of E. L. Goddard, as its agent to settle with its creditors ; and on the 10th of April, 1844, Thos Sanford and Wm. Rossiter came in possession of said company's real estate ; and, under the firm name of "Sanford & Rossiter", they carried on the manufacture of satinets and other goods till into July, '57, when the entire property was purchased of them by its present owner and very efficient business manager,

#### GEORGE L. BALCOM,

Who has, from time to time, replaced the old with *new* and improved machinery, so that now there is to be seen in his mill scarcely a relict of the *old*. For several years during and after the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Balcom carried on, in connection with his establishment here, a similar one in Proctorsville, Vt., to good advantage to the public as well as to himself, as was shown by the fact, that a year or two, under the United States' internal revenue laws, he paid over to the Collector in New Hampshire a much larger income tax than any other individual in the State ; though there is but little reason to doubt that there was more than one individual whose *real* income exceeded his. Though such incidents are out of place here, yet, from their *scarcity*, they are note-worthy, anywhere. And, "while our hand is in", we will refer to another :

Many, if not all our older citizens, will remember **HIRAM WEBB**, who was an operative in this mill, I understand, during most of the time Sanford & Rossiter owned it, and with Mr. Balcom, a few years, also, as a common hand, and afterwards was the Superintendent of his mill some 10 or 12 years, to the day of his death in 1875. Mr. B. speaks well of him, as being a faithful, trustworthy agent. It was stated in an obituary notice of him, that during some twenty years, as a journeyman, he was contented to work for very low wages, yet by strict industry and economy, he earned and left a competency for his family, besides giving liberally, (as a worthy deacon of the Baptist church) towards a very expensive re-modeling of their house of worship. This mention of his name must excite a feeling of reverence for his memory. He set the *day-laborer* an example more worthy *his* imitation than that of a conqueror.

Mr. Balcom's mill has 2 water-wheels, 2 sets of 44 in. cards, 660 spindles, and 12 looms—employs 35 hands—uses 140,000 lbs. California wool, and manufactures 90,000 yards of black Doeskins, Tricots, Tweeds and Meltons, per annum—which goods, at present prices, are worth \$ 70,000.

### "The Old Knife Factory Building"

Is far from being an appropriate *name* for the large 3-story wooden structure on fall No. 8, north side; yet it is the name it has been known by among us for many years past. It was built in 1856-7, by Doct. John S. Spaulding as principal manager; though it is believed William Rossiter, and perhaps others, were interested in the undertaking—the especial object of which is not known, unless it was



to make ready for some "aristocratic capitalist" who might chance to come among us. Be that as it may, like others elsewhere herein referred to, it stood empty, without inside finish, till '53, when (Doctor Spaulding having in the mean time deceased), the firm "Sanford & Rossiter" commenced making table knives there. That business was continued about five years, with but poor results to the parties engaged in it. The building again stood unoccupied till '66-7, when the "Claremont Linen Co." put into it machinery for making linen toweling from the raw material—spinning and weaving the goods by a new process. The company not realizing anticipated profits, they abandoned the business after about three years' trial, and the building again stood empty till 1877. Then came among us, from Enfield, N. H.,

#### HERBERT BAILEY,

Who purchased and put the building in complete repair—making several additions to it, and filling it with machinery for manufacturing KNIT SHIRTS and DRAWERS. His machinery is driven by 1 water-wheel, and consists of 5 sets of carding, spinning and finishing machinery complete, and 25 sewing machines. Annual consumption of cotton and wool 150,000 lbs., producing goods valued at \$100,000—employs 40 hands.

This is considered a valuable and important addition to the manufacturing establishments in our village. And as we have still unoccupied room and *water-power* to spare, it will be peculiarly fortunate for us to have it taken up and used by manufacturers having the ready means and business tact of this one among our latest acquisitions in the line of manufacturing industry.

On coming here Mr. Bailey bought the dwelling-house

and ample grounds of Otis F. R. Waite, on Central street, and is fitting them up elegantly for his residence.

### The Lower Falls Company.

The theatre of this company's operations was where they expected to utilize a 9th fall or water-power, by taking the water from the *north*, and conducting it into the *east* side of the river. In 1836 (as if there could be no limit to the "flying of manufacturing kites"\* at that early day), John Gove, and others from out of town, started this company,—bought a farm of Jona. Read, and pitched upon a spot on the meadow, some 150 rods (more or less) below the dam at Mr. Bailey's factory, as the site of their 3 or 4-story brick factory. They dug a canal from the foot of said dam to the aforesaid site, by which to obtain their motive power—calculating to dig another from below it, to convey the water into the river again—and thus obtain a fall of 11 or 12 feet. At the spot selected for their *magnificent* building they excavated the ground several feet below the surface, and laid their foundation walls of well assorted stone on what they deemed a sure and solid basis—got together their brick, and a considerable supply of other building materials, on the ground, and—then concluded to "wait a spell for better times" to go on and finish their factory. They did n't wait but a year or two, before they came to the conclusion that the best thing they could do was to wind up the concern, and let their assets "go up" at public sale ;

\* In an Editorial of "The National Eagle" of Dec. 4, 1835, it is stated, that during that year there had been built in Claremont more than 70 buildings, "(mostly dwelling-houses), besides one or two factories."—And we may add, on as reliable authority, that, in 1836, an equal number of the former, and twice as many of the latter class of buildings were erected here.

then turn their attention to other less hazardous business enterprises. But let it be borne in mind, that at some future day, when our country shall have a stable, unvacillating currency, (if that day ever comes), this Lower Falls Company's factory site may become a *mine* of great value to an enterprising set of Yankees who know how best to improve its advantages for manufacturing purposes.

I have now gone through with these Historical and Statistical Sketches within the limits of "the village proper", according to the original programme. But the liberal encouragement I have received, enables me to extend the review a considerable *distance beyond those limits*—to the territory known among us as

#### "THE WEST PART"

of Claremont. And we go into that rural district impressed with a feeling of veneration towards the ground we tread upon; for it was here, about 1765, that a son of the inventor (in England), of the old "TUB WATER-WHEEL", Col. BENJAMIN TYLER, first commenced the business of manufacturing,—and afterwards, (with two of his sons), supplied the whole country around them with that "old Tub Wheel." And it was here the native forests of the town first yielded to the woodman's axe,—and where the first *church* in town was organized, and the first framed church-building erected.

#### Henry Russell and F. T. Kidder's Carpet Factory.

In addition to the 180 feet of water-fall that I have noticed, it is claimed that there is not far from 100 feet more between No. 9, as before described, and the conflu-

ence of our river with the Connecticut—but a small part of which is in use. Following the stream down on the north side to about half way between No. 9 and “the West Part” village, we come to where Henry Russell and his brother-in-law, Doct. F. T. Kidder, in 1851-2, put up a 1-story brick edifice, occupying about half an acre, and filled it with the requisite machinery for making carpetings—which machinery was put in motion by water taken from their 20-ft. dam across the river at that point, which set it back some 150 or 200 rods, and thus formed a capacious reservoir for use in “low water.” They had all the local facilities they could wish for their business; but, after about a year’s trial they relinquished the undertaking—and now hardly a vestige of their buildings or dam remains to mark the spot they once occupied.

### **Col. Benjamin Tyler's Smelting & Ironworking Establishment.**

Soon after building his gristmill in 1766, as before noted, Col. Benjamin Tyler put a dam across the river, a few rods above where the Sullivan R. R. Co.'s “High Bridge” now stands, and built a small shop in which he had a forge, triphammer and other tools for manufacturing mill-irons and other heavy articles, from iron-ore, which (I am told by one of his grandsons), he drew from a lot of ground just below the so called “Dry Sawmill”, 2 or 3 miles north of Charlestown street. Here he did a large and lucrative business, for 20 years or more—employing, (my said informant says), a great part of the time, some 20 or 30 hands. He died in 1814, aged 81.

In 1800 Col. Tyler put in operation at or near the site of the Jarvis papermill, what was known as the “Flax Mill” in those days; the use of which was to prepare flax for the old hand spinning-wheel.

### The Russell Jarvis Papermill,---and Sawmill.

J. Q. A. MELLE, SUPERINTENDENT.

About the year 1813 Doct. Leonard and Consul William Jarvis bought of Col. Benj. Tyler his grist and sawmill establishment and water-power, together with ten acres of land adjoining; and Doct. L. Jarvis erected the main building now owned and occupied by Col. R. Jarvis as a papermill, and carried on the manufacture of broad cloths in it for some 12 or 15 years. The Jackson-Van Buren repeal of a *protective* tariff destroying that branch of national industry, the broad cloth machinery gave place to that for making wrapping-paper—put in by Doct. L. Jarvis' son, the present owner, who first leased the mill to Burpee & Fiske, a number of years—afterwards to the Clar. Manuf. Co., N. Whitney, and, in 1868, to J. Pierce & Co.—since then the mill has been occupied by Col. R. Jarvis.

This mill is run by two water-wheels; one operating 4 pulp engines; the other a 36-in. cylinder machine. Since February, 1874, it has been under the management of the present Superintendent, making Print, Hanging, Glazing and Colored papers; consuming about 2,500 lbs. of stock, and turning out 2,000 lbs. of paper per diem.

### The Farrington Papermill.

The saw and gristmills, on the north side of the river, opposite the Jarvis mills above referred to, were known a good many years before and after 1836, as the "Gilmore Mills"; but when or by whom built, "this depon-

ent sayeth not." When postmaster Gilmore occupied them, he or his brother had a blacksmith's forge and triphammer, near where Farrington's papermill is now. Mr. JOHN FARRINGTON, who returned from California some twenty years ago, with "a pocket-full-of-rocks", now owns the present saw and papermill establishments standing on the sites, respectively, of the old Gilmore mills and forge. He built and furnished the papermill with machinery in 1861, and the sawmill in '66. His papermill has 2 pulp engines, a 36-in. cylinder machine, and it produces about 2,000 lbs. of White Roll paper a day.

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#### The Public Institutions of Claremont, from 1766 to 1879.

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As was the case with most New England towns, the first settlement of CLAREMONT, (in 1765), was very tardy. A large proportion of its early pioneers came from Connecticut. They pitched upon lands bordering on and near the Connecticut River. Hence it was that by inquiry we find; the first public or town cemetery was located in the "West Part", near the first-built framed church edifice, and that the first interment in this "burying-ground" was in 1766; while the first in that of the East Village was in 1792—26 years *afterwards*.

But as we are not writing a "*History of Claremont*"—though it is high time somebody should be—we will proceed to notice what has been done by way of improving

its Public Institutions—these improvements, let it be kept in mind, being the outcome and result of the persistent and finally successful efforts of its citizens to improve its WATER-POWER, and other natural advantages for business operations.

Within the principal village there are 6 school-houses; all of them (except that near the Universalist church, I believe), built since 1856. That one is occupied by two grades—the primary and intermediate. And, for two or three years past, (thanks for the provisions and enforcement of the late compulsory educational law of N. H.) a *primary* school, composed almost entirely of the children of “foreigners”, so called, numbering some 35 or 40 pupils, has been kept in district No. 1 in a hired room.

In 1834 there was but a single church building (the Universalists’—Rev. EDWARD SMILEY, Universalist Pastor)—that is *now* occupied as a “house of worship.” All the others, viz. the Congregational, Rev. LEVI RODGERS, Pastor; the Episcopalian, Rev. HENRY FERGUSON, Rector; the Methodist, Rev. DANIEL STEVENSON, Pastor; the Baptist, Rev. JOSEPH SWAIM, Pastor; the RomanCatholic, CORNELIUS O’SULLIVAN, Priest—have been built since that date—are all in good repair; the Congregational and Baptist having been remodeled, at great expense, within four or five years past—the Episcopal thoroughly repaired.

Until about the year 1836, we had no Town House. Our Town Meetings were held in what was once the “Old town meeting-house, out at Draper’s Corner.” It was, a good many years prior to 1836, moved into the village—afterwards the rotund part was added, and, about that year, adopted as our veritable “Town House”; and about 11 years ago it was remodeled for its more convenient use as such, at an expense of about \$10,000.

In thus cursorily glancing at our primary public Insti-

tutions, they are reviewed in the consecutive order they were introduced among us by the early settlers and their successors, viz.: 1st, the *cemetery*, then the *school house*, then the *church*, then the *town house*—and then, “5thly,” (at a much later day, and not yet seen among *our* institutions), the *jail* and *penitentiary*, as necessary substitutes for the time-honored *pillory* and *whipping-post*.

Yet the foregoing institutions do not comprise all that are indispensable necessary for the full development and preservation of CIVILIZATION and “rational LIBERTY.” So reasoned many of our citizens in '47-8, when strong efforts were made by them for establishing a HIGH SCHOOL here. But they had to wait till one of their number had gone out into the marts of trade, and, by his superior skill in catering to the traveling public, had secured “a fortune”, before the long sought-for institution could be brought to our doors. This native of our town—PARAN STEVENS, the son of one of our highly respected early settlers, Col Josiah Stevens, (who died here in 1826), had thus acquired the ability, and was prompted by his noble quality of heart to liberally endow an invaluable seminary of learning for us, and for generations to come.

### The Stevens High School.

THE building for this school is located in a pleasant, and rather retired, part of the village—on the late Hon. Geo. B. Upham's homestead lot, corner of Broad and Summer Streets, containing nearly 2 acres. It was built in '67; S. P. Fiske, Geo. N. Farwell, Doct. N. Tolles, A. Dickinson and B. P. Gilman were the building-committee. It is a beautiful and substantial 3-story brick edifice, (the third story having a hall the whole size of the building, used for lecturing and other occasions of assembling



the whole school)—having every necessary inside appointment, and sufficient space for the convenient accommodation of 200 scholars. It cost, including the iron fence, etc., \$27,225—the town appropriating \$15,000, and Mr. Stevens about \$13,000 towards it; and also \$10,000, to be permanently invested as a fund, the interest to go towards the support of the school; to which fund, by will, at his decease in '72 he added \$40,000—making his entire donation to the institution amount to about \$65,000.

This school has three terms of instruction each year, viz.: Fall Term of 16 weeks, begins about the 1st of September; Winter Term 12 weeks, to close the last Tuesday in March; Spring Term 11 weeks, to close the last week in June. Its first term commenced in September, 1868; and it has been in successful operation ever since—the first 2 years Doct. N. BARROWS was Principal; and for the last 9 years the present highly esteemed and well qualified Principal, ARTHUR J. SWAIN, has had charge.

Thus it will be seen, that by this munificent bequest of PARAN STEVENS, the youth of Claremont, male and female, (and of other towns, at a small expense for tuition), can obtain free high school instruction to fit them for college.

### The Fiske Free Library.

IN 1873 SAMUEL P. FISKE, Esq., a native and venerable citizen of Claremont, gave as a nucleus to a town Library, free to every inhabitant, about 2000 volumes of books well adapted for the purpose, on condition that the town should provide a suitable room and librarian, keep them in repair, and replace any which might be lost or destroyed with others of equal value. The town accepted the gift, and named it the "FISKE FREE LIBRARY"—and the

books were kept in the Hall of the High School building till removed into that recently fitted up for this Library. At the annual town meeting in March, 1877, the Trustees then chosen, viz.: D. W. Johnson, O. F. R. Waite, O. B. Way, A. T. Batchelder and A. Willis, were authorized to purchase the "Bailey Block" for \$4,500, for said Library; and at the town meeting in March, '78, the said Trustees were authorized to alter, repair and fit up a part of the second story for the Library, at an expense not to exceed \$2,500.

This was done, and the books, with valuable additions—the whole numbering about 3,300 volumes donated by Mr. Fiske, were removed to said building that summer. Mr. Fiske, who died in February, '79, bequeathed by his will \$5,000, including what he had already given, for the purchase of more books for the Library; and \$4,000 more as a fund, the interest of which is to be expended by the Trustees, for the same purpose. This Fiske Free Library is now one of the most valued and useful institutions in town. The rents of the part of the building not used for the Library, amount to a little over 7 per cent. income on its entire cost to the town, as it now stands.

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#### SOME OF THE FIRST SETTLERS.

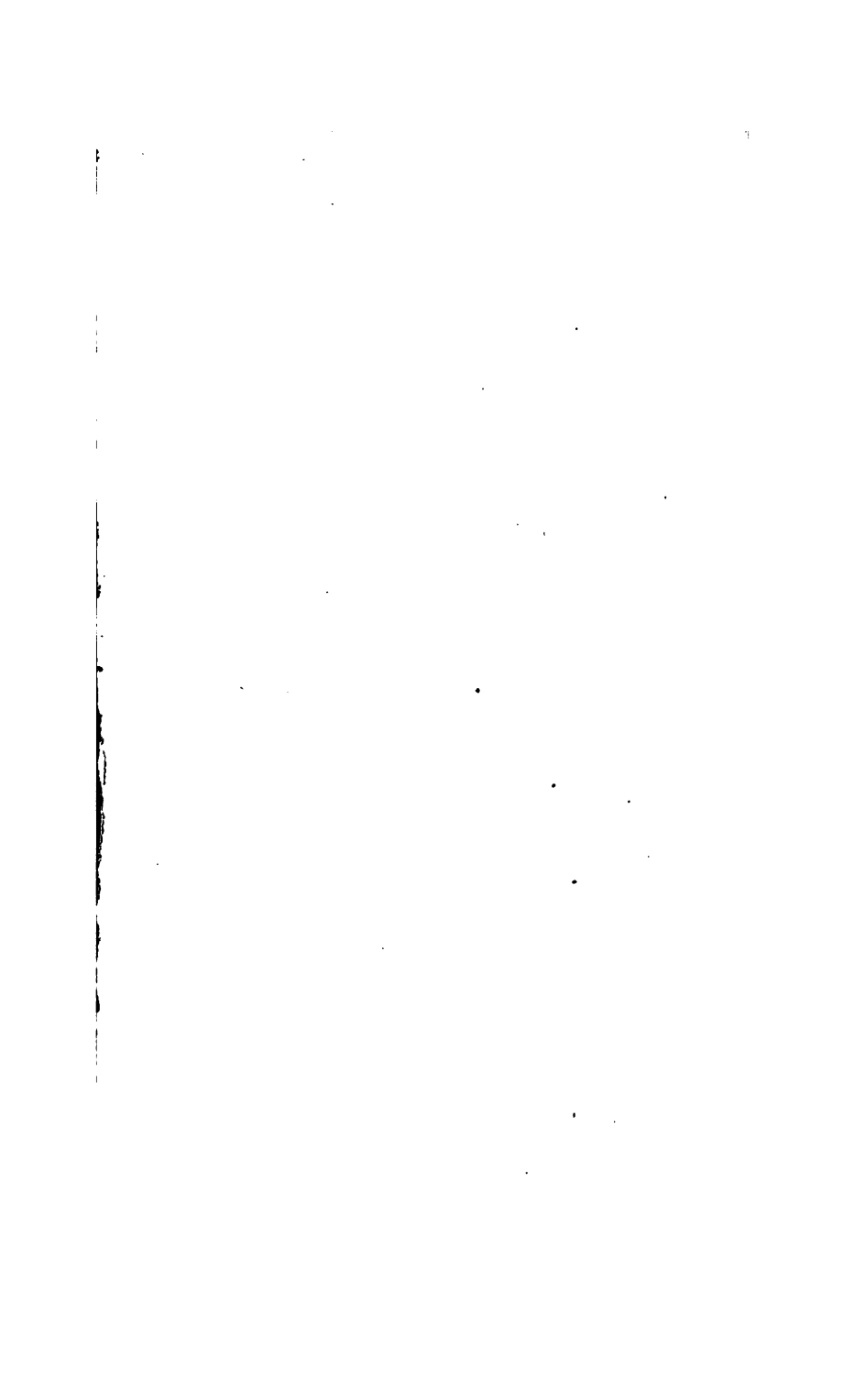
As we have not yet (though for many years past expecting to have) a "Town History" of Claremont to go to for historical incidents, I will touch them lightly here:

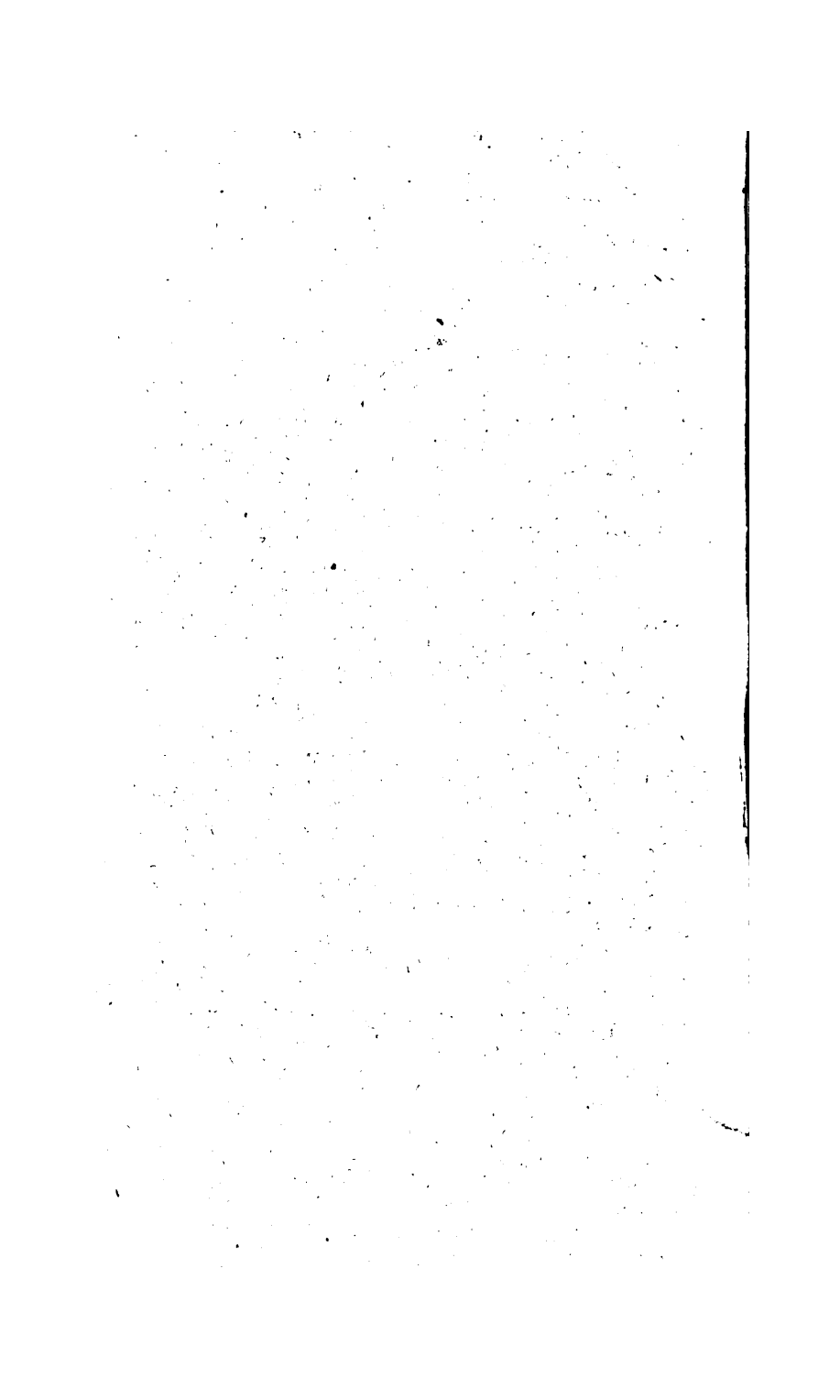
I have it from reliable authority, that in the winter of 1765, Col. BENJAMIN TYLER came from Wallingford, Conn., traveling on foot,—a part of the way on the ice of the Connecticut River. It would seem that the object of this

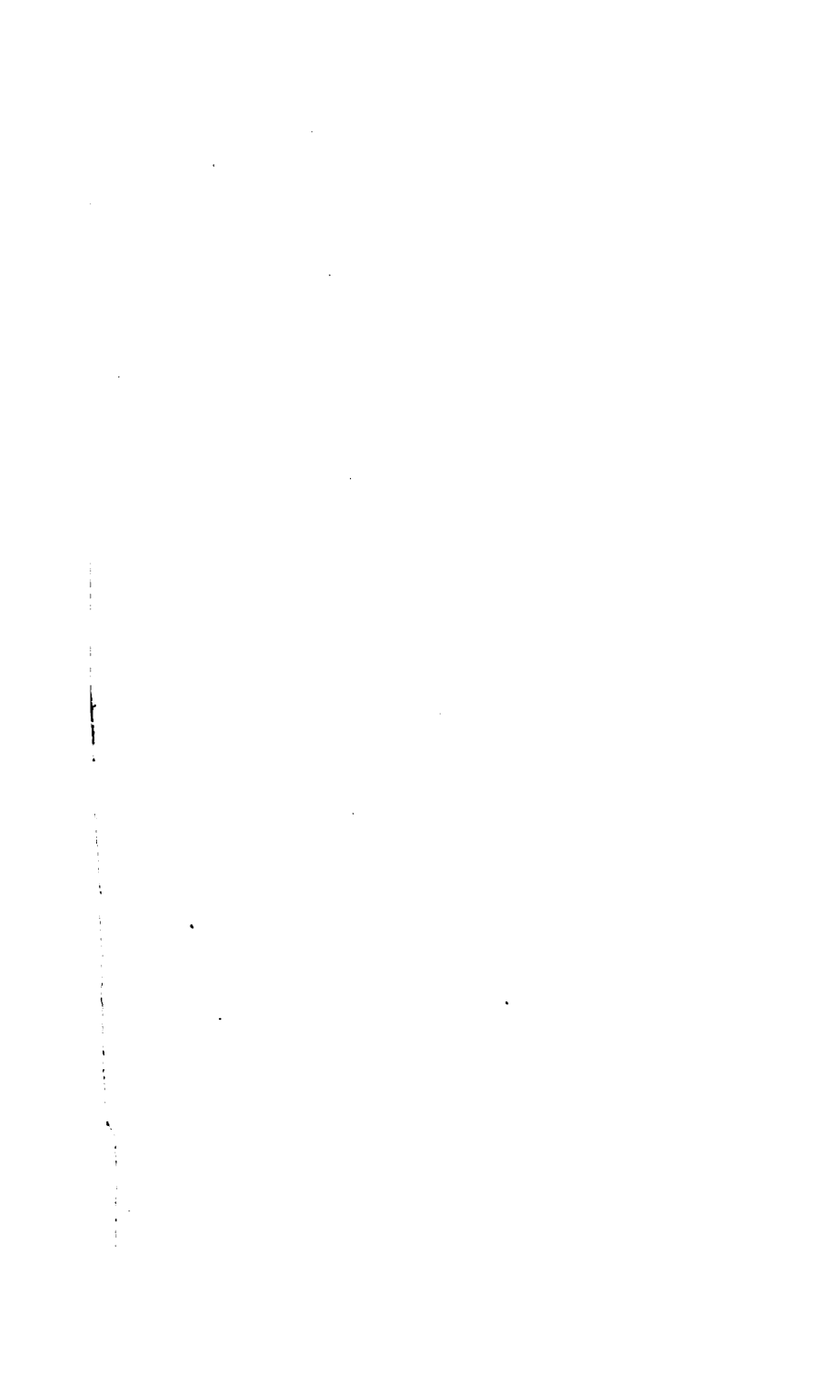
first visit was merely *prospective*; for it is further stated, that in '65-6, he had (probably by some means of conveyance in which a horse was employed), got his tools up from Wallingford, and built a Gristmill on the spot where Mr. Farrington's sawmill now stands. And, in 1785, he built and gave to his son Ephraim, the "Old Tyler Mills", at fall No. 5, as before stated. The town gave Col. Tyler 100 acres of land, as a premium for building this *first* gristmill. He built the first saw and gristmills they had in nearly all the towns around. In Gilbert Davis' "History of Reading," page 30, it is stated, that "The first sawmill in town was built by Col. Tyler of Claremont, N. H., in 1780; who built a gristmill [in Reading] in 1783."

The first settlers in Claremont congregated mainly at "the West Part." They began to arrive there, "on foot and on horse-back", in 1765; and on April 28, '69, there were the following twelve names of them signed to a petition to a convocation of Clergymen at New Milford, Ct., to send them a missionary, or lay-reader, or at least a school-master—viz: Daniel Warner, Levi Warner, Asa Leet, Benj. Brooks, Benj. Brooks, jr., Benj. Roe, Abel Bachelor, Her. Rice, Micar Potter, Cornelius Brooks, Benjamin Tyler and Ebenezer Price. The present residents of C. will doubtless recognize among some of these the names of their ancestors, who duly prized the religious and common-school instruction of their children.

A good deal more might be said about the first settlers of Claremont; indeed, an interesting book might be written about their accidents, mishaps and trials—one of the kind we have just room enough for here: When the large meadow, east of fall No. 1, was a wilderness, a pioneer hunter in search of game there, shot and killed a *bear*, (as he supposed); but found, on a nearer view of his prize, that it was a neighbor's "*old black mare*"!









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